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November 12, 2013

Chairman Fred Upton  
Ranking Member Henry Waxman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund, we are writing to express our strong support for Title III of S. 252, which will allow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) the continued flexibility to send chimpanzees retired from research to suitable sanctuary and to care for chimpanzees already living at the national chimpanzee sanctuary.

Regardless of where they are housed, NIH has responsibility for the lifetime care of approximately 600 federally-owned chimpanzees. It is NIH policy to send chimpanzees to the national chimpanzee sanctuary system when they are retired from research, as intended by Congress; sanctuaries provide higher welfare standards for chimpanzees at a lower cost to taxpayers than housing in barren labs. Sanctuaries operate more efficiently than the government-run laboratories, they bring in substantial private dollars to augment government support, and they make substantial use of volunteer personnel.

In response to a comprehensive report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), and following the recommendations of an NIH Working Group of independent experts convened to advise on implementation of that report, NIH recently announced that it intends to retire the vast majority of federally-owned chimpanzees from research. However, the original *CHIMP Act*, which established the national chimpanzee sanctuary system, included a limit on the amount of money NIH can spend on sanctuary care and housing of retired chimpanzees. There is no similar restriction on funding for care and housing of retired chimpanzees in laboratories. Therefore, once NIH reaches the sanctuary spending limit, it will lose the ability to contract with appropriate sanctuaries for care and housing of retired chimpanzees, and may be forced to contract with lower-welfare, higher-cost labs instead—to the detriment of chimpanzees and taxpayers alike.

By passing S. 252 Title III, Congress will leave NIH free to contract with sanctuaries, the most appropriate providers for chimpanzee care, thus allowing the agency to use its resources more efficiently and effectively. We strongly support Title III of S. 252 and thank you for your leadership on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Wayne Pacelle in black ink.

Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
The Humane Society of the United States

Handwritten signature of Michael Markarian in black ink.

Michael Markarian  
President  
Humane Society Legislative Fund